

Patent claims

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1. A method for secured access to data in a network with an information center (3) and a plurality of data area access systems (1, 2), in which method an owner of rights to data to be stored can alone allow the storing of these data and define the access rights of third parties to these data at the information center (3),
wherein
- the data are in each case stored only once in one of the data area access systems (1, 2) not accessible to the owner of the rights,
 - the information center (3) registers the presence of data of a certain type in each data area access system (1), after which the owner of the rights to the stored data can define at the information center (3) access rights of third parties to the data,
 - after a request of a requesting data area access system (2) for data of a certain type, the information center (3) transmits a list of the data present of this certain type, specifying the data area access system (1) respectively storing these data, to the requesting data area access system (2) for which the access rights of the requesting data area access system (2) correspond to the access rights defined at the information center (3) for these data, and
 - the data of the certain type are transmitted directly by the data area access system (1) storing these data to the requesting data area access system (2) only if the data area access system (1) storing these data has received a confirmation from the information center (3).
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein an authorization of the storage of data and of the definition of the access rights of third parties to

the data takes place by means of an identity check of the owner of the rights to the data.

- 5 3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein data to be stored are stored in the data area access system (1) together with an electronic form, which contains the type of the data.
- 10 4. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, wherein a data area access system (1) storing data responds to a request for certain data of a certain type by a requesting data area access system (2) by verifying the access rights through an inquiry to the information center (3) as to whether the
- 15 requesting data area access system has access rights to the certain data of a certain type.
- 20 5. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, wherein a data area access system (2) receiving certain data of a certain type allows access to the received data only directly after a respective reception of the data.
- 25 6. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, wherein a data area access system (2) itself storing certain data of a certain type grants access to the certain data of a certain type only if a positive verification has taken place through an inquiry to the information center (3) as to
- 30 whether the data area access system (1) itself storing the certain data of a certain type can show access rights for the certain data of a certain type.
- 35 7. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the information center (3) is notified by a data area access system (1) having new data about the presence of new data of a certain type, whereupon the information center (3) sends a

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notifying confirmation to the data area access system (1) concerned.

- 5 8. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7,
wherein the data are identified on the basis of an
identification which is allocated as a unique
identification by the information center (3) and is
transmitted by the information center (3) after a
10 registration of new data to the data area access
system (1) storing these data, in order for this
system to append the respective identification to
the respective data.
- 15 9. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 8,
wherein, after an inquiry for data of a certain
type by a data area access system (2), the
information center (3) prepares a list of all the
data present of this certain type before it
20 verifies the access rights to the data of the
certain type, in order to transmit the list of data
present of this certain type, specifying the data
area access system (1) respectively storing these
data, to the requesting data area access system (2)
for which the requesting data area access system
25 (2) can show the access rights.
- 30 10. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 9,
wherein, when data access is desired by a data area
access system (1) to data of a certain type,
firstly a request for such data of the certain type
is sent to the information center (3).
- 35 11. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 10,
wherein, when data transmission is desired from a
data area access system (1) storing data to a
requesting data area access system (2), firstly a
request for certain data of a certain type is sent
by the latter system to the data area access system
(1) storing these certain data of a certain type.

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12. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the data in a data area access system (1, 2) are stored in a secure data memory, no direct access being possible to the data stored therein.
13. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the type of the data is determined by their content and/or the owner of the rights to the data.
14. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the access rights to stored data can be defined by the owner of the rights to the data at any point in time after their registration at the information center (3) and, after that, can be changed again as desired by a re-definition by the owner of the rights to the data.
15. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 14, wherein the access rights to stored data can be granted by the owner of the rights to the data when they are stored in a data area access system (1, 2).
16. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the communication between a data area access system (1, 2) and the information center (3) or another data area access system (2, 1) takes place in encrypted form.
17. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the sender provides the information sent by him with a digital signature by means of a secret signature code, whereby the recipient can verify the sent information by means of an associated public signature code.
18. The method as claimed in claim 16 or 17, wherein the sender encodes all transmitted data by means of

a public encryption code issued by the recipient, whereby only the recipient can decode the transmitted data by means of a secret encryption code.

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19. The method as claimed in one of claims 16 to 18, wherein not only each data area access system (1, 2) and the information center (3) but also each participant has a secret signature code and a secret encryption code and a public signature code and a public encryption code.

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20. The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the secret signature codes and encryption codes and/or public signature codes and encryption codes of a participant are stored on a data carrier, such as for example a smart card.

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21. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 20, wherein a participant accessing the network must authorize himself and his identity is verified by the information center.

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22. The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the identity of a participant is stored on a data carrier, such as for example a smart card.

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23. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 22, wherein the permission for storing the data is given by the owner of the rights to the data at the latest when the data are registered at the information center (3), the information center (3) not allowing any subsequent data access to these data without correct authorization.

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24. The method as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, wherein, when the data are transmitted, the appropriation specified by the owner of the access rights for the transmission of

these data in the original data context is transmitted together with these data in the form of an electronic watermark and these data are additionally marked visibly as an appropriated copy of the original data.

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